

**Amendments to the Specification**

Please replace the paragraph indicated below and the title in their entirety with the replacement text as marked up.

*Title, page 1, lines 1-2:*

METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR ~~MANAGING~~ DETERMINING AVAILABILITY  
OF A USER OF AN INSTANT MESSAGING APPLICATION

*Specification, page 1, lines 4-6:*

This is a divisional application of ~~pending~~ U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/482,452, filed January 13, 2000, entitled "METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR MANAGING INSTANT MESSAGING", now abandoned, which is herein incorporated by reference.